

Mayor Rothschild's remarks at No More Names bus tour – July 5, 2013

Good evening. To our visitors from Newtown, welcome.

We are family.

We didn't know it, back in January, 2011.

But by December, 2012, we knew it.

Our towns, our hearts, broken together, would mend together.

Tucson and Newtown know what it is to live through devastating, senseless trauma. We know what it is to live with the aftermath.

We know the power of human kindness, as shown by the Bens Bells Project. Started in Tucson, Bens Bells visited Newtown on January 8th of this year. Now your town, too, has a Bens Bells chapter.

Kindness brings comfort, even as it reminds us of the sweet spirits we lost.

But kindness alone won't bring about the change we need.

For that, we need strength – the strength to face political realities as they are and to make the changes we need where we can.

We are asking – we are demanding – that Congress pass comprehensive background check legislation.

More than 90% of the American people are with us.

The forces against us are the gun lobby in Washington. They know the power of money and organization.

But we know it too. Money can be raised. Organizations can be built.

Children, however, cannot be brought back.

The gun lobby would like to appear all-powerful. But nothing, no power on earth, is stronger than the will of the people.

Change will come and it will come because people like you believed it was possible and knew it was necessary.

In the words of our former Congresswoman, Gabby Giffords, "Be bold. Be courageous."
Thank you.